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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
EXTENSION SERVICE
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Reserve

Extension Service Staff Conference
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A Brief Report of the Work of the Emergency War Food Assistants

Division of Field Coordination

PERSONNEL

On June 30, 1944, a total personnel of 1,346 were employed in the Emergency War Food Production and Conservation Program in the United States (East 95, Central 404, South 585, and West 201). Of the personnel of 585 in the Southern States, 65 were Negro men and 146 Negro women. Maryland employed 4 Negro men, Missouri 1 Negro woman, and West Virginia 1 Negro man and 4 women, making a total of 221 Negroes.

In addition to the professional personnel of 1,346 there were 595 White clerks and 43 Negro clerks employed in counties over the country.

An analysis of the total personnel is as follows:

White Personnel

4 men supervisors
14 women supervisors
22 assistant extension editors
411 emergency men county assistants
647 emergency women county assistants
1 man urban worker
21 women urban workers
595 clerks in counties

Negro Personnel

2 men supervisors
3 women supervisors
70 emergency men county assistants
142 emergency women county assistants
9 urban women county assistants
43 clerks in counties

EMERGENCY FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY JULY 1, 1944

Reports from States over the country show that the county emergency assistants during April, May, and June, 1944, were devoting the major part of their time and efforts to forwarding the Victory gardening, food conservation, poultry, milk, and beef programs with rural, town, and city families. On the whole, the reports show that approximately 90 percent of the emergency assistants' total time was spent on Victory gardens, food conservation, poultry, dairying, beef cattle and sheep. The other 10 percent was distributed in emergency work on

hogs, small grains, pastures and hay crops, corn, potatoes, soybeans, fruit crops, farm machinery, insect control, nutrition, and farm labor.

It is apparent from the reports that the type of assistance rendered to both farm families and urban families will result in a substantial increase in the production and conservation of food necessary for war purposes as well as an increase in those phases of farm production and conservation that will make for better farm living in the post-war period. The emergency assistants have fitted well into numerous and varied emergency situations, and their work has been admirable in its scope. They have helped to personalize the Extension Service in this emergency by making possible a more general response to demands upon the regular extension agents. These additional workers have constructively and materially aided in the expansion and the application of the over-all extension program of service for both rural and urban people.

WAR FOOD EMERGENCY WORK SUMMARY

1. United States

1. Rural farm and home visits	174,546
2. Urban visits	35,661
3. Meetings	31,748
4. Attendance	761,891
5. Leader-training meetings	6,635
6. Leaders trained	28,839 (10 per county in U. S.)
7. 4-H members enrolled	133,688
8. 4-H members assisted	148,933
9. Demonstrations conducted	25,385
10. Different families helped individually:	
Rural	220,337
Urban	88,489
Telephone calls	81,167
Office calls	75,385
Meetings conducted by voluntary leaders trained by emergency war food assistants	5,452

2. Eastern Region

1. Rural farm and home visits	12,986	-	Vic. Gar. & Food Cons.	65%
2. Urban visits	3,727	-	" " " " "	85%
3. Meetings	4,468	-	" " " " "	75%
4. Attendance	121,276	-	" " " " "	80%
5. Leader-training meetings	1,995	-	" " " " "	50%
6. Leaders trained	4,412	-	" " " " "	60%
7. 4-H members enrolled	28,641	-	" " " " "	90%

8. 4-H members assisted	28,338	-	Vic. Gar. & Food Cons.	90%
9. Demonstrations conducted . .	6,153	-	" " " "	90%
10. Different families helped individually:				
Rural	44,376	-	" " " "	90%
Urban	31,696	-	" " " "	90%
Telephone calls	16,162			
Office calls	9,284			

Meetings conducted by voluntary leaders trained by emergency war food assistants 228

3. Central Region

1. Rural farm and home visits . .	26,710	-	Vic. Gar. Food Cons. Milk, Beef	70%
2. Urban visits	7,966	-	" " " "	85% M. 10%
3. Meetings	6,545	-	" " " "	65% 8%
4. Attendance	189,462	-	" " " "	75% 10%
5. Leader-training meetings	976	-	" " 20% " "	25% 35%
6. Leaders trained	6,520	-	" " - " "	80% 8%
7. 4-H members enrolled	22,935	-	" " - " "	50% rest equally divided
8. 4-H members assisted	27,493	-	" " - " "	" " " "
9. Demonstrations conducted	3,676	-	" " - " "	8% Milk 10%
10. Different families helped individually:				
Rural	37,000	-	" " - " "	60% Milk 9%
Urban	23,636	-	" " - " "	95%
11. Total number of telephone calls	24,215			
office calls	18,952			

Meetings conducted by voluntary leaders trained by emergency war food assistants 2217

4. Southern Region

1. Rural farm and home visits . .	125,542	-	Vic. Gar. Food Cons., Poultry, Milk	85%
2. Urban visits	22,783	-	" " " Cons. Poultry	95%
3. Meetings	19,169	-	" " " "	90%
4. Attendance	415,040	-	" " " "	85%
5. Leader-training meetings	3,327	-	" " " "	85%
6. Leaders trained	17,158	-	" " " "	90%
7. 4-H members enrolled	76,805	-	" " " "	85%
8. 4-H members assisted	88,849	-	" " " "	85%
9. Demonstrations conducted	14,658	-	" " " "	90%
10. Different families helped individually:				
Rural	128,354	-	" " " "	80%
Urban	36,450	-	" " " "	95%
Telephone calls	29,532			

Meetings conducted by voluntary leaders trained by emergency war food assistants 2612

5. Western Region

1. Rural farm and home visits . . .	9,308	-	Vic.	Gar.	Food	Cons.	Milk, Beef	60%
2. Urban visits	1,185	-	"	"	"	"	Poultry	95%
3. Meetings	1,566	-	"	"	"	"	"	85%
4. Attendance	36,113	-	"	"	"	"	"	60%
5. Leader-training meetings . . .	337	-	"	"	"	"	"	50%
6. Leaders trained	849	-	"	"	"	"	"	90%
7. 4-H members enrolled	5,307	-	"	"	"	"	"	90%
8. 4-H members assisted	4,253	-	"	"	"	"	"	85%
9. Demonstrations conducted . . .	898	-	"	"	"	"	"	65%
10. Different families helped individually:								
Rural	10,607	-	"	"	"	"	"	60%
Urban	1,391	-	"	"	"	"	"	90%
11. Total number of telephone								
calls	11,337							
office calls	6,596							

Meetings conducted by voluntary leaders trained by emergency war food assistants 395

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 4-H CLUB WORK

Emergency war food production and conservation assistants have enrolled and assisted 4-H Club members in the main with Victory gardens, food conservation, milk production, and poultry. Approximately 85 percent of the total enrollments is in this field.

One State reported that counties having emergency assistants have an average of 265 boys and 187 girls, or a total of 452 4-H Club members per county, as compared with 146 boys and 152 girls in counties without emergency assistants -- an increase of 154 4-H Club members, or more than 50 percent. For the country as a whole, the emergency assistants have done a very good job on 4-H Club work, as they have enrolled 133,688 boys and girls. They have also assisted 148,933 4-H Club boys and girls with their club organization, meetings, leader-training, and demonstrations.

EXAMPLES OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

One or two examples of accomplishment to show the value of the work in counties:

Kentucky: In Leslie County, Ky., the food production assistants were instrumental in placing 17,000 baby chicks with 4-H members and farmers. The cockerels are being used at home and the surplus sold at \$1 each. The food production assistant is placing fall garden seed packages with 500 4-H Club members and also with farmers over the county. In addition, 187 acres of hybrid corn have been planted by 4-H Club members.

Illinois: In Illinois special meetings were held to plan for enrolling all farm cooperators, as well as their neighbors, in a "rye for pasture" program. According to results reported from counties having production assistants in

Illinois this year, rye increased milk production 17 percent during the pasture season. The annual loss of milk production in Illinois dairy herds from clinical mastitis is estimated at about 275 million pounds, or the milk-producing capacity of approximately 55,000 cows.

Delaware: (European corn-borer control). The 134,000 acres of corn planted in Delaware each year are especially important in these times of food shortages. One of the limiting factors in the production of broilers during 1943 was the feed shortage. Losses due to the European corn borer have necessitated the shipping into the State of increased tonnage of feed. Farmers, in general, have not been cognizant of the losses due to the corn borer, because in nearly all cases where an insect infestation is new to an area, they do not notice losses of 10 to 15 percent. However, during the past year, farmers have become aware of the losses because of the very heavy corn borer infestation, and they have requested help.

Annual surveys of European corn-borer abundance have been made in Delaware since 1939. There has been a marked progressive increase in its abundance since that time as is shown in the following table:

	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1943</u>
Average percentage of plants infested	4.1	19.1	24.9	36.4	60.4
Average number of borers per 100 plants	22.3	53.2	40.1	106.1	244.7

Idaho: War food production assistants have been used during the past quarter to expand and make more effective the work in the counties on outstanding food-production problems. The main activities on which they have worked are: Eight-point dairy program, wartime use of available fertilizers, utilization of irrigation water in short water areas, organization of rural fire prevention and control programs, grasshopper and rodent control, poultry feeding and culling, cattle grub eradication, and organization of food-production 4-H Clubs.

Oklahoma: In a county in Oklahoma, the production assistant made 339 farm visits, held 44 community meetings, with attendance of 930 people, and trained 79 neighborhood leaders on increasing the food production for 1944, organized neighborhood leaders in 22 communities, reaching indirectly over 500 farm families and over 3,500 farm people through the neighborhood-leader method, and enrolled 126 4-H Club boys on different projects, to increase food production.

AN APPRAISAL OF EMERGENCY WORK

1. In reading the reports from the States, one is impressed by the large number of examples cited by emergency assistants indicating that farm and urban families expressed pleasure in having a personal visit from a representative of the Extension Service.
2. There has occurred all over the country during the past 2 years a marked increase in calls upon all extension workers from both rural and urban people. The work of the emergency assistants has relieved the regular workers of many details, thus enabling them to expand their services, respond to emergency requests, and to strengthen the regular extension program in general.

3. Emergency assistants have been particularly helpful in areas where population has been concentrated and the calls for help have been numerous. County extension agents have been more free to make personal contacts with farm families who expect service and who need more personal service because of war changes.

4. Emergency assistants have helped to personalize the Extension Service in visits to more than 300,000 rural and urban homes.

5. The activities and the stimulation of these war food assistants have been very helpful in bringing about definite increases in production of essential and regular types of farm and garden products.

6. The over-all extension program of service for both rural and urban families has been constructively and materially aided by the addition of the emergency workers. The zeal and interest of some of these workers is shown by letters from two of the Negro women assistants, as follows:

"This is to inform you that I am aware of the fact that the month of June is almost gone, and I must take this opportunity to explain to you just how I feel about the position of emergency war food assistant. Due to the fact that the ripened corn, tomatoes, beans, and numerous other vegetables are now ready for canning, I am perfectly willing to work without compensation through the month of July assisting the rural women in conserving this product for winter, that they and the boys upon the battle front may not suffer. I am willing to work for my victuals and clothes, and as I have plenty of gingham dresses, and the rural people will feed me out of their Victory Gardens, I will not suffer, and though I suffer, it is not to be compared to that of the boys overseas nor the rural homes whose inmates are not accustomed to the ration books."

"I am writing you concerning the surrender of my position as an emergency war food assistant in Tallahatchie County. First I must say that I am very grateful to you and all concerned for giving me the opportunity to help in the war effort on the home front.

"I feel that it is a pressing duty of mine to stay in the county now, for at this time there are numerous quantities of fruits and vegetables to be canned in all parts of the county. The tomatoes are getting ripe, and corn is also ready to be canned.

"With two brothers serving overseas, one in the land forces and the other in the Marines, I cannot afford to stop now, because the work is pressing in the county now and the home demonstration agent cannot accommodate all the people who are now asking for help in food preservation. Therefore, I prefer remaining in the county through the month of July without pay to give my assistance. I feel that what I am doing and can do at this time will in some little way be helping my brothers overseas as well as the many others who are serving their country. I must say again thank you, and I do hope to be able to assist further in this work."

A. SOUND FUTURE PROGRAM FOR RURAL-URBAN EMERGENCY ASSISTANTS

The Federal office will have no program for emergency production and conservation assistants as such, but all members of the Federal staff on visits to the States may well emphasize with extension directors and staffs that the work of emergency assistants should be so organized and planned for 1945 that their work may become permanent.

Suggestions for Federal Workers in Assisting States with Developing Emergency War Food Production and Conservation Programs for 1945.

Suggested program for war food assistants:

Continue to develop a well-rounded program as suggested in leaflet 782-44 distributed by the Division of Field Coordination in July 1944. The main features of the leaflet were:

1. Home food production.
2. Canning, preserving.
3. Farm food production.
4. Waste and loss prevention.
5. Preparation for and use of frozen-food lockers.
6. Building of home storage cellars and outdoor pits, preserved-food storage shelves.
7. Care, checking, repair of preserving equipment.
8. Organization and direction of small community canning centers.
9. Obtaining surplus food from farms and gardens and canning it for community or home use.
10. Preparation and use of home produced and preserved food.
11. Food needs of the Nation; regulations and policies governing production and allotment; food rationing; conservation of food.
12. Local and area nutritional disease situations brought about by faulty diets, and plans for meeting such problems.

Suggested procedures to make the program for 1945 more effective:

1. Continue to emphasize principles, policies, and relationships in extension work.
2. Keep agents currently informed as to extension methods and procedures including organization of local demonstration groups - 4-H Clubs, home demonstration clubs, plans of work, demonstrations, meetings, information reports.
3. Find more effective ways of doing things which we have been doing this year and do more of them.
4. Encourage emergency assistants to come in contact with and learn more about rural and urban families.
5. Encourage State staffs to spend more time in organizing and planning ahead.
6. Stress the need for subject-matter training.
7. Urge supervisors in States to determine jobs and services that emergency assistants can best do and train them to do these specific jobs.
8. State supervisors and regular extension agents and all emergency assistants need to develop teamwork in counties so that their work will complement and supplement the work of each other.
9. State staffs should develop now definite educational jobs for the winter months. Some suggestions that might be made to State staffs are:
 - a. Organize cities and town for war food activities adapted to nonfarm conditions.
 - b. Develop recommendations for subject matter that might appropriately be presented to rural and town and city people during the winter months.
 - c. Train volunteer leaders.
 - d. Suggest effective teaching procedures for winter months, such as the use of radio and other channels for giving information.
10. Train agents how to reach and influence rural and urban people. Examples:
 - (a) One emergency production assistant visited neighborhood leaders to ascertain from them the particular needs of families on their list and followed by making personal visits.
 - (b) Another emergency production assistant said the biggest job he encountered in his county was ridding farms of loafers (cull hens and cull cows).
 - (c) Getting "tip offs" from county agents, from officials and workers of creameries and milk plants, on needs and following up with personal contacts, was done by a few emergency assistants.
 - (d) A good method of reaching and assisting farm and urban families was followed by the emergency assistant in writing a personal letter to all families in a community or township outlining services he could render and enclosing a "farm call request card." This system in one Midwest county resulted in 180 farmers mailing in "farm request cards" in one month.